

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-8 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) Liquid clay characterized in that a clay body is prepared by combining and kneading carboxymethylcellulose or an equivalent material, fine vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, and sodium alginate or an equivalent material, and by further adding water and any one pigment or a plurality of pigments, a liquid clay body is produced and the color thereof is modified, the liquid clay body serving as a clay-like paint having said color.

2. (Previously Presented) Liquid clay characterized in that, by combining and kneading an aqueous solution of carboxymethylcellulose or an equivalent material, fine vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, sodium alginate or an equivalent material, and any one pigment or a plurality of pigments, a liquid clay body is prepared in a state suitable for spatula application and having said color, the liquid clay body serving as a clay-like paint.

3. (Currently Amended) The liquid clay recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the liquid clay body is prepared by combining and kneading carboxymethylcellulose, an aqueous solution of PVA adhesive, fine vegetable powder comprising vegetable matter including wood, and sodium alginate or an equivalent material.

4. (Previously Presented) The liquid clay recited in Claim 3 characterized in that titanium is further added to and kneaded with said liquid clay body.

5. (Currently Amended) The liquid clay recited in any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said fine vegetable powder is a fine powder containing wood sawdust.

6. (Currently Amended) The liquid clay recited in any of Claims 2 to 5, characterized in that said sawdust contains at least any one from among Japanese cedar, Japanese cypress, *Thujopsis dolabrata*, hemlock spruce, fir, Japanese black pine, Japanese red pine, spruce, white fir, *Thuja standishii* larch, umbrella pine, Japanese oak, beech, *fraxinus griffithii*, ash, zelkova tree, paulownia tree, cherry tree, chestnut tree, maple tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, camphor tree, cryptomeria, Oregon pine, yellow cedar, *mertensiana*, oak, mahogany, redwood, sequoia

cedar, incense cedar, *Tilia japonica*, teak, Taiwan cypress, ebony, lauan tree, and *Chaenomeles sinensis*.

7. (Currently Amended) The liquid clay recited in ~~any of~~ Claims 2 to 6, characterized in that said sawdust is formed into a block by applying pressure and then ground into a 50 to 150 fine powder.

8. (Currently Amended) Liquid clay characterized in that the liquid clay recited in ~~any of~~ Claims 1 to 7 is enclosed in containers for each of the colors of said liquid clay bodies.